

FURTHER UNUSUAL RECORDS OF LEPIDOPTERA FROM THE ROTHAMPSTED INSECT SURVEY NATIONAL LIGHT-TRAP NETWORK

ADRIAN M. RILEY

Farmland Ecology Group, Department of Entomology and Nematology, IACR Rothamsted, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ.

CONTINUING THE SERIES of papers detailing unusual or significant records of Lepidoptera from the Rothamsted Insect Survey (RIS) national light-trap network (Riley, 1993; 1995), the following are considered to be of particular interest. In the case of phenological records, the usual flight period is taken from Skinner (1984) and is entered in brackets. For ease of reading, details of the localities of the traps are tabulated at the end of the paper. The species nomenclature follows that of Emmet & Heath (1991). All identifications were made by the author unless otherwise stated.

Phenological records

Xanthorhoe montanata ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Silver-ground Carpet. One late individual at Drayton on 31.viii.1994 (May to mid-July).

Cidaria fulvata (Forster) Barred Yellow. One late individual at Starcross on 11-14.x.1996 (June/July) (Identified by A.H. Dobson).

Eupithecia abbreviata Stephens Brindled Pug. One probable second emergence individual at Yarnier Wood on 6.x.1995. (April/May).

Apeira syringaria (Linn.) Lilac Beauty. One late individual at Rothamsted (Apiary) on 26.ix.1994 (June/July). This is unlikely to represent a second emergence as the larvae of this species do not usually pupate until the spring of the following year.

Selenia dentaria (Fabricius) Early Thorn. Very early records at Fota on 7.i.1995 and Lanhydrock on 21 and 23.ii.1995 (April/May; August/September).

Peribatodes rhomboidaria ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Willow Beauty. One second emergence individual at Stoughton on 12.x.1995. Although an occasional second emergence is known to occur during September in southern England, this record from the midlands is of interest.

Campaea margaritata (Linn.) Light Emerald. Second generation individuals at Longton on 26.x.1995, Rowardennan on 8.x.1995 and Beinn Eighe II on 2.x.1994. A second generation is frequent during late August and September in southern England but such northerly records are unusual.

Peridea anceps ([Goeze]) Great Prominent. One second emergence individual at Rhandirmwyn on 12.x.1994 (April-June).

Euproctis similis (Fuessly) Yellow-tail. Late records at Preston Montford on 12.x.1995 and Sparsholt on 23-25.ix.1994. (July/August). These are unlikely to represent a second emergence as the larvae of this species usually over-winter and pupate during the May of the following year.

Agrotis ipsilon (Hufnagel) Dark Sword-grass. One very early record at Preston Montford on 9.ii.1994. This species is usually found between March and November.

Skinner (1984) states there is to date no evidence of over-wintering by adults in Britain but suggests this might possibly occur. The very early date of the present record and the absence of other migratory species in RIS light-traps at the time of capture supports this view.

Diarsia rubi (Vieweg) Small Square-spot. One late individual at North Wyke on 22.x.1995 (May/June and August/September).

Xestia xanthographa ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Square-spot Rustic. One late individual at Westonbirt on 28.xi.1994 (late July-September).

Cerastis rubricosa ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Red Chestnut. An individual at Rhandirmwyn on 6.xii.1994 (March/April) represents a very premature emergence.

Orthosia cerasi (Fabricius) Common Quaker. Records of two individuals at Castle Eden Dene II on 19.viii.1995 and one at Hamstreet on 6.xii.1994 (March/April) represent very early emergence.

Distributional records

Pammene splendidulana (Guenée). Three at Castle Eden Dene II on 8/9.vii.1995 (identified by T.C. Dunn). Last recorded in Co. Durham in 1904 (Dunn & Parrack, 1992).

Margaritia sticticalis (Linn.) One at Cockayne Hatley on 31.viii.1995 (Identified by I.P. Woiwod). Not previously recorded in Bedfordshire. (Arnold, Baker, Manning & Woiwod, 1997).

Ostrinia nubilalis (Hübner) European Corn-borer. One at Cockayne Hatley on 1/2.viii.1995 (Identified by I.P. Woiwod). Only the fourth record for Bedfordshire. (Woiwod & Manning, 1996).

Epirrita christyi (Allen) Pale November Moth. Regular at Glensaugh since the trap was installed in 1994. Not previously recorded in N.E. Scotland (vice-counties 91-94) (R.M. Palmer, *pers. comm.*).

Eupithecia inturbata (Hübner) Maple Pug. One at Kielder on 9.viii.1992. Not previously recorded in Northumberland (Dunn & Parrack, 1986).

Gymnoscelis rufifasciata (Haworth) Double-striped Pug. Single records at Kielder on 18.viii.1985 and 6.ix.1988. Not previously recorded in Northumberland (T.C. Dunn, *pers. comm.*).

Cepphis advenaria (Hübner) Little Thorn. One at Fota on 12.vi.1994. Not previously recorded in Co. Cork (Skinner, 1984).

Eilema lurideola (Zincken) Common Footman. Recorded at Glensaugh since the trap was installed in 1994. These are the only inland records for Kincardineshire. It was previously believed only to occur at a few localities on the coast (R.M. Palmer, *pers. comm.*).

Lacanobia contigua ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Beautiful Brocade. One at Kielder on 10.vii.1987. Not recorded in north-east England since 1910 (Dunn & Parrack, 1986).

Mythimna albipuncta ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) White-point. One at Cockayne Hatley on 3.viii.1995. Not previously recorded in Bedfordshire (Woiwod & Manning, 1996).

Omphaloscelis lunosa (Haworth) Lunar Underwing. Recorded at Glensaugh since installation of the trap in 1994. Only inland records for Kincardineshire. The species was believed previously to occur only on the coast (R.M. Palmer, *pers. comm.*).

Oligia versicolor (Borkhausen) Rufous Minor. Recorded at Moneymusk in 1996 (identified by R.M. Palmer). Not previously known to occur in N.E. Scotland (vice-counties 91-94) (R.M. Palmer, *pers. comm.*).

Locality of trap sites

Site	RIS Site No.	County	OS Grid reference
Beinn Eighe II	527	Ross-shire	NH 025 627
Castle Eden Dene II	484	Durham	NZ 427 393
Cockayne Hatley	336	Bedfordshire	TL 253 494
Drayton	535	Warwickshire	SP 164 549
Glencoe	558	Argyll	NN 119 567
Glensaugh	567	Kincardineshire	NO 671 782
Hamstreet	472	Kent	TR 004 334
Kielder	296	Northumberland	NY 632 936
Kielder Village	557	Northumberland	NY 632 932
Lanhydrock	550	Cornwall	SX 099 636
Longton	552	Lancashire	SD 477 247
Ludlow	488	Shropshire	SO 514 743
Moneymusk	551	Aberdeenshire	NJ 669 192
North Wyke	543	Devonshire	SX 662 984
Ongar	493	Essex	TL 562 047
Preston Montford	382	Shropshire	SJ 433 143
Rhandirmwyn	346	Dyfed	SN 782 441
Rowardennan	97	Stirlingshire	NS 378 958
Rothamsted (Apiary)	612	Hertfordshire	TL 121 129
Rothamsted (Pastures)	615	Hertfordshire	TL 121 133
Starcross	149	Devonshire	SX 972 821
Stoughton	561	Leicestershire	SK 638 027
Warehorne	478	Kent	TQ 988 346
Westonbirt	292	Gloucestershire	ST 847 898
Yarner Wood	266	Devonshire	SX 786 788

Two further traps are cited that are not on the Ordnance Survey Grid:

Fota (Site 546) : Fota Wildlife Park, Carigtwohill, Co. Cork, Ireland.

Jersey (Site 547): Howard Davis Farm, Trinity, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Laspeyria flexula ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Beautiful Hook-tip. One at Kielder on 27.vi.1991. Dunn & Parrack (1986) reject a record from 1889 in Co. Durham. It has not otherwise been recorded previously north of Yorkshire (T. Dunn, *pers. comm.*).

Parascotia fuliginaria (Linn.) Waved Black. One at Starcross, 14-17.vii.1995 (identified by A.H. Dobson). Not previously recorded in Devonshire (A.H. Dobson, *pers. comm.*).

D.V. Manning has completed his identifications of the microlepidoptera caught at Cockayne Hatley during 1994 and records the following species as new to Bedfordshire (Manning, 1995). The dates of capture are given in brackets.

Monopis crocicapitella (Clemens) (24-30.ix.); *Leucoptera waillesella* (Stainton) (16-22.vii.); *Phyllonorycter dubitella* (Herrich-Schäffer) (July); *Elachista biatomella* (Stainton) (13-19.viii.); *Cosmiotes consortella* (Stainton) (September); *Caryocolum proximum* (Haworth) (16-22.vii.); *Pediasia contaminella* (Hübner) (16-22.vii.); *Scoparia ancipitella* (La Harpe) (2-8.vii.).

Scarce immigrant records

Regular papers detailing all immigrant species recorded in RIS traps from 1993 onwards are presently being planned. However, the following species are recorded so infrequently that it is considered desirable to include them here.

Palpita unionalis (Hübner). One at Hamstreet on 25.x.1995.

Coscinia cribraria arenaria (Lempke) Speckled Footman. One at Ongar on 6.viii.1996. Only the sixteenth record this century (B. Skinner, *pers. comm.*).

Mythimna loreyi (Duponchel) The Cosmopolitan. One at Rothamsted (Pastures) on 31.viii.1992.

Conistra erythrocephala ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) Red-headed Chestnut. One at Jersey, 12-14.iv.1996. This is only the fifth record for the 1990's and only the second time the species has been recorded during the spring after hibernation (B. Skinner, *pers. comm.*).

Heliothis armigera (Hübner) Scarce Bordered Straw. One at Jersey, 20-22.x.1995, and two on 22.viii.1996; one at Yarner Wood on 2.ix.1996.

Other significant records

Scopula nigropunctata (Hufnagel) Sub-angled Wave. One at Warehorne on 16.vii.1995. In the British Isles this species is restricted to certain areas of the Hamstreet Forest complex in Kent. Although the trap at Warehorne is within this locality, records are so infrequent that it is considered worth noting this capture.

Dryobota labecula (Esper) Oak Rustic. Three individuals at Jersey, 25.x.1995, 27-29.x.1995 and 30-31.x.1996. This species was first recorded in Jersey in 1991 (Burrow, 1996). The present records suggest the species is increasing in abundance in the island. It has not previously been recorded in the RIS trap that has operated there since 1970.

Senta flammea (Curtis) Flame Wainscot. One at Warehorne on 29.v.1995. This individual may be an immigrant though Skinner (1984) states that it is resident at Wye, approximately 15 km from Warehorne. No other migrant species were caught at the site at this time.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the trap operators at all the sites listed above, without who's, often voluntary, participation the light-trap network could not function. The Drayton and Glensaugh sites are part of the National Environmental Change Network. The author is particularly grateful to Tony Dobson, the late Tom Dunn, David Manning, Bob Palmer, Bernard Skinner and Ian Woiwod for their valued help and expertise.

This work is partly funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of Great Britain.

References

- Arnold, V.W., Baker, C.R.B., Manning, D.V. & Woiwod, I.P., 1997. *The Butterflies and Moths of Bedfordshire*. Bedfordshire Natural History Society.
- Burrow, R., 1996. *Dryobota labecula* (Esper) The Oak Rustic (Lep.: Noctuidae): a new breeding species to the British list from the Channel Islands. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **108**: 136-137.
- Dunn, T.C. & Parrack, J.D., 1986. The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham. Part One: Macrolepidoptera. *The Vasculum* - Supplement No. 2. Northern Naturalist's Union.
- , 1992. The Moths and Butterflies of Northumberland and Durham. Part Two: Microlepidoptera. *The Vasculum* - Supplement No. 3. Northern Naturalist's Union.
- Emmet, A.M. & Heath, J., 1991. *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Vol. 7, Part 2. Harley, Colchester.
- Manning, D.V., 1995. Micro-moths (Lepidoptera). Report of the recorder. *Bedfordshire Naturalist* **49**(1): 62.
- Riley, A.M., 1993. Important Lepidoptera records from the Rothamsted Insect Survey national light-trap network. *Entomologist's Gaz.* **44**: 173-177.
- , 1995. Further unusual records of Lepidoptera from the Rothamsted Insect Survey national light-trap network. *Entomologist's Gaz.* **46**: 195-198.
- Skinner, B., 1984. *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles*. Viking, Harmondsworth.
- Woiwod, I.P. & Manning, D.V., 1996. Two new migrant species for Bedfordshire. *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **108**: 92.

Phyllonorycter leucographella (Zeller)(Lep.: Gracillariidae) in Buckinghamshire

On 4 April 1997 I found eight mines of this moth on a bush of firethorn *Pyracantha* sp. at Medmenham, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire. The bush is growing in the grounds of WRC at the entrance to the canteen. The moth is a recent arrival here; I have been checking the bush, and others in the area, on and off for several years and this is my first sighting. Three adults emerged, together with two Braconid parasites, from 9 to 12 May 1997.— I. SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.